

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 070440
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIG-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /070 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:WNHOWELL,JR.:GCB
APPROVED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER
-----302225Z 067277 /72-62

P R 302049Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 070440

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, PINT, LE, US
SUBJECT: DANY CHAMOUN MEETING WITH ATHERTON

1. WE ARE POUCHING TO ADDRESSEES MEMCON OF CHAMOUN'S MARCH
28 MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON.
2. ONE-HOUR MEETING PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE CLEAR TO
CHAMOUN THRUST OF US POLICY IN LEBANON WHICH IS TO SUPPORT
SARKIS GOVERNMENT AND URGE LEBANESE FACTIONS TO DO LIKEWISE
IN THEIR SELF INTEREST AND THAT OF LEBANON AS A WHOLE.
CHAMOUN TOOK OCCASION TO DWELL PRIMARILY UPON HIS CONCEPTION
OF FUTURE LEBANON. ALTHOUGH SCHEMES HE UNVEILED CLEARLY
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PAGE 02 STATE 070440

DESIGNED TO PERPETUATE CHRISTIAN, AND PARTICULARLY MARONITE,
DOMINANCE IN LEBANON, HIS TONE WAS RATIONAL AND HIS FOCUS
WAS ON LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES, ALBEIT WITH EMPHASIS ON THE NEED
TO GET THE COUNTRY MOVING QUICKLY TOWARD POLITICAL CONSENSUS.

3. MAJOR POINT OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST WAS CHAMOUN'S REACTION
TO NEWS OF APPOINTMENT OF VICTOR KHOURI AS COMMANDER OF

LEBANESE ARMY. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT HIS FATHER OPPOSED REPLACEMENT OF HANNA SAID, DANY SAID HE CONSIDERED KHOURI TO BE A GOOD CHOICE WITH PERSONAL FOLLOWING IN THE MILITARY AND SPECULATED THAT, WITH MEN SUCH AS KHOURI ON THE CHRISTIAN SIDE AND AHMED AL-HAJJ ON THE MUSLIM, THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT

MIGHT RATHER QUICKLY DEVELOP THE NUCLEUS OF A REJUVENATED ARMY.

4. FOR BEIRUT: CHAMOUN SAID HE DEPARTING US MARCH 29 AND WOULD BE IN LEBANON ABOUT ONE WEEK LATER. ATHERTON SUGGESTED THAT HE CONTACT AMBASSADOR PARKER AFTER HIS RETURN, EMPHASIZING THAT PARKER HAD BEEN SPECIALLY SELECTED FOR BEIRUT POST TO SERVE AS PRIMARY USG CHANNEL IN LEBANON.

CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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TAGS: PFOR, PINT, LE, US, (CHAMOUN, DANY), (ATHERTON, ALFRED L JR)
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